



THE SUMPTER MINER

THEY HEARTILY INDORSE ANNEXATION MOVEMENT

Men of Grant County, From Granite Say They Will Work For The Change.

J. J. O'Dair and J. W. Tabor, prominent citizens of Granite, are here today and most heartily do they indorse the movement to annex several of the mining districts tributary to Sumpter, but now included in Grant county. Here is about the way they put it to a Miner representative.

"For instance, take the North Fork of John Day part of the Cable Cove district, Lake Creek, La Bellevue, Monumental, Magnolia, Granite, Alamo and part of the Greenhorn district, and they naturally look to Sumpter as their base of supplies, and main center; and I think you will find that the unanimous sentiment of the people residing in these districts is that they should be annexed to Baker county. Our business reason for this is apparent, and again when we have legal matters to attend to, we have to journey to Canyon City by stage, which requires at the least calculation six days to make the trip, while we could go to Baker City and back in less than two

days, leaving out of the consideration that Sumpter may in time become the county seat. We are not urging this last, however, but the people of Granite and the surrounding country to a man are in favor of annexation, and they will do everything in their power to see the change brought about."

At the rough guess the districts named include a strip of country some fifteen by twenty miles, and taking in approximately 300 square miles. The territory naturally belongs to Baker county, since the distance from Canyon City isolated it from the county seat of Grant county, and its business interests lie in this direction. It will require a special act of the legislature to effect a division, and the general talk now is to choose a representative from the county who will carry the matter to a favorable termination. Petitions from the seceding districts or from either Grant or Baker county, according to legal opinion, are not necessarily required.

WILL WORK HIS PLACER PROPERTY

E. J. Wallace returned this morning from his placer property in Stices Gulch, where he went the other day to take preliminary steps toward starting up work. Mr. Wallace will go back Saturday and continue operations, getting things in readiness for the pumping plant which he intends installing in the spring.

The Killen, Warner, Stewart placers in Stices, adjacent to his, Mr. Wallace says, has made a good showing. Work was suspended a few days ago until spring opens up. Bedrock was reached at twenty-three feet, and drifting will be started when the weather opens up. Gold was encountered which goes as high as 89 and 810 to the cubic yard.

CRACKER HIGHLAND TO RESUME WORK

The management of the Cracker-Highland Gold Mining company intends resuming operations on its property very shortly. Owing to the fact that it was caught unprepared last fall, the work at the mine was temporarily abandoned. It is now the purpose to construct cabins necessary for continuous work in all kinds of weather and carry out the plans of last fall. The crosscut which already shows signs of mineralization will be pushed through to immediate completion.

Henry Reiss Thanks Miners.

Henry Reiss, who came here two or three weeks ago to bury his brother,

er, who was killed in the Virginia mine, by the explosion of a missed hole, writes The Miner from North English, Iowa, under date of February 2, as follows: "This may seem rather late to express my thanks and gratitude towards the miners and people in general, but during my short stay in your city my thoughts and mind were filled with sorrow and grief so that I could not find words to express myself. I can not even yet find words to express my thanks and gratitude. Contrary to my expectations, I found the miners a liberal, kind hearted and whole souled kind of people. May God bless them and their kind deeds."

THINGS LOOKING UP AT WHITNEY

T. H. Boynton, of the Whitney Forwarding company, was on the train this afternoon going to Baker on business. Mr. Boynton's line gives him intimate knowledge of the general situation. He says:

"The freight business is rapidly increasing and the outlook is indeed promising. Within the past week or so there has been a wonderful picking up in all lines. Besides the general increase which is very noticeable, we have a ten stamp mill for the Virginia for transportation, to replace the old Parker mill now on the property. Also, a sawmill has arrived for McNaughton which is to be used in developing his Strawberry Lake power proposition. The general opinion is that the coming season is going to be one of unprecedented prosperity. The early revival of trade seems to warrant such a conclusion."

BONTA'S CREW ON CHINA CREEK

P. Soards, of China creek, was in town today and reports that a force of Major Bonta's engineers is now at work in that vicinity, making surveys for a better grade along this water course.

Major Bonta is now in the east, and it is understood that the financing of the enterprise has been practically completed, and that the object of putting the men to work in the snow, completing the survey is with a view to letting bids for the construction of the road at an early date. The intention as far as can be learned at this time is to have everything in readiness for early spring work, that the new road may be completed as rapidly as possible during the summer months.

INDICATIONS OF A BUSINESS REVIVAL

An indication that there is an improvement in business conditions here may be gathered from the fact that within the past few days there has been a very decided increase in the Sumpter freight receipts. Sumpter Valley officials say, too, that the passenger traffic is also picking up.

The duller season of the year here, as in most other places, immediately succeeds the closing of the holiday trade. For a few weeks it is expected that business will be stagnant to a greater or less extent, and this year has been no exception to the general rule. Early in February signs of a revival presaging the spring activity are to be observed. Here again the rule holds good, as is evidenced in the increased freight receipts, the extra passenger traffic, and the fact that most business interests in the city are showing a decided improvement. A majority of the business men here predict a prosperous year in all lines. The fact that a great many new mines will be opened up, new capital is coming in, mills are being planned and other evidences seem to warrant such a conclusion.

Another indication of an improvement may be taken from the increased transportation of supplies and other freight to the mines. Now that the roads are in fine condition, numbers of teams may be seen every morning leaving for neighboring properties.

LAND OFFICE NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Asa Thompson yesterday received the following dispatch from J. H. Finley, acting secretary of the interior: Bonds of your successor approved. Deliver to him at once all property pertaining to the receiver's office as per instructions of January 21.

Attorney Chance, who is United States commissioner here, and in that capacity does an extensive land office business, received a telephone message from La Grande late yesterday afternoon, stating that Al Roberts, the new receiver, had arrived and assumed the duties of his office.

This will be cheerful information for many people in eastern Oregon. The land office has now been practically closed for more than four months, during which time only final proofs could be submitted.